

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 448

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

PLEASE PASS RODMAN/ADAMS/BORG FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT JO KRAFT COLUMN, THURSDAY, MARCH 13

WASHPOST, HEADLINED "CONGRESSIONAL MEDDLING".

2. EVENTS ARE NOW MAKING A LIAR OF THE CLAIM THAT  
CONGRESSIONAL "MEDDLING" IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS INEVITABLY  
YIELDS DISASTER. THANKS TO JUST SUCH MEDDLING, THE  
TURKS AND GREEKS ARE ONCE MORE ON THE ROAD TO A CYPRUS  
SETTLEMENT.

3. SIMILAR MEDDLING HOLDS OUT PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT  
IN CAMBODIA -- AND EVENTUALLY VIETNAM. FOR ONLY THE  
CONGRESS -- IT NOW BECOMES CLEAR -- CAN BREAK THE PERVERSE  
LOGIC WHEREBY OFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH REGULARLY  
CAUSE THE UNITED STATES TO BECOME THE PRISONER OF ITS  
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ALLIES.

4. TAKE FIRST THE CASE OF CYPRUS. THE CONGRESS CUT OFF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY IN ORDER TO FORCE ANKARA TO COMPROMISE WITH ATHENS ON A CYPRUS SOLUTION.

5. THE PRESIDENT AND ALL HIS MEN HARUMPED ABOUT CONGRES-

SIONAL INTERFERENCE. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER SPOKE OF AN "UNMITIGATED DISASTER," AND CLAIMED THE MOVE TO CUT OFF AID WOULD ONLY STIFFEN TURKISH RESISTANCE, THEREBY HARMING THE GREEKS. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JAMES SCHLESINGER ALSO SPOKE OF DISASTER, AND WARNED THE TURKS MIGHT BEGIN CUTTING BACK THEIR MILITARY COOPERATION IN WAYS HARMFUL TO THE SECURITY OF EUROPE.

6. IN FACT -- AFTER SOME HUFFING AND PUFFING -- TURKISH AUTHORITIES SAW THAT WASHINGTON MEANT BUSINESS AND THAT THEIR FORCES WOULD SOON BE RUNNING OUT OF SPARE PARTS. ANKARA, IN THESE CONDITIONS, TURNED REASONABLE. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WAS RECEIVED THERE TUESDAY. NOW NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT HAVE BEEN RENEWED AND THE OUTLOOK IS NOT BAD.

7. IN THE CASE OF CAMBODIA, THE ISSUE IS WHETHER TO GRANT \$222 MILLION IN SPECIAL AID FOR FOOD AND AMMUNITION TO THE BELEAGUERED GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT LON NOL.

8. PRESIDENT FORD CLAIMS THERE IS A "MORAL" OBLIGATION TO HELP. THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IMPLIES THAT TO ABANDON CAMBODIA WOULD ADVERTISE AMERICAN WEAKNESS TO THE WORLD. THE STATE DEPARTMENT INDICATES THAT IT FAVORS NEGOTIATIONS AND COULD GET SOMETHING GOING IF THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND WERE IMPROVED AND IT COULD FIND SOMEBODY TO SPEAK FOR THE COMMUNIST INSURGENTS, OR KHMER ROUGE. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN INTIMATES THAT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS, AND AT THE SAME TIME ASSERTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF LON NOL IS "LEGITIMATE."

9. THESE ARGUMENTS ARE MOSTLY NONSENSE. THERE IS NO UNCLASSIFIED

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REASON TO BELIEVE THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT CAN EVER RIGHT THE MILITARY BALANCE TO THE POINT OF MAKING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE. THE KHMER ROUGE REBELS HAVE AT LEAST AS GOOD A CLAIM TO LEGITIMACY AS LON NOL, AND THEY ARE FAR FROM BEING UNKNOWN FIGURES.

10. THE CONGRESS, FORTUNATELY, HAS READ THE SITUATION WELL. INSTEAD OF TRYING TO PROP UP THE SATELLITE REGIME

FOR ONE MORE GO AT A POSITION OF STRENGTH, SENATORS AND  
REPRESENTATIVES UNDERSTAND THAT THE RIGHT WAY TO A  
SETTLEMENT IS THROUGH A CHANGE IN THE REGIME IN PHNOM  
PENH. WITH LON NOL GONE AND THE STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE  
POLITICAL ADVANTAGE ABANDONED, ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE  
FOR AN ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER. THE RESULT, FAR FROM  
BEING A DISASTER FOR THE UNITED STATES, WILL BE A LEFT-WING  
GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO AGGRAVATE EVEN FURTHER THE ABUNDANT

STRAINS WORKING AMONG HANOI, PEKING AND MOSCOW.

11. TWO LEADING SENATORS -- THE MARYLAND REPUBLICAN  
CHARLES MATHIAS AND THE ILLINOIS DEMOCRAT ADLAI STEVEN-  
SON III -- HAVE SEEN THAT THE SAME LOGIC APPLIES TO  
VIETNAM. THEY ARE READYING LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD  
CUT OFF AID TO SAIGON UNLESS THE REGIME OF PRESIDENT  
NGUYEN VAN THIEU MOVED TOWARD FREE ELECTIONS AND A MORE  
BROADLY BASED GOVERNMENT. ONLY IN THAT WAY CAN PRESSURE  
BE APPLIED TO GEN. THIEU TO SET UP THE KIND OF REGIME  
WHICH COULD ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT.

12. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE CONGRESS OUGHT TO  
MEDdle indiscriminately and try to fine-tune all foreign  
policy issues. On the contrary, recent experience teaches  
us that there is a definable condition where congressional  
meddling works.

13. THAT IS THE SITUATION WHERE THE UNITED STATES HAS  
BECOME THE PRISONER OF A CLIENT STATE, WHERE AMERICAN  
OFFICIALS HAVE BECOME PERSONALLY OVERCOMMITTED TO ALLIED  
REGIMES, WHERE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS BURDENED BY PAST  
COMMITMENTS TO THE POINT OF BEING UNWILLING TO REEXAMINE  
THEM IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES.

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14. IN THOSE SITUATIONS, THE CONGRESS, WITH ITS EGO  
UNINVOLVED AND ITS FACE IN NO NEED OF SAVING, HAS A WISDOM  
WHICH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH DOES NOT. IT CAN GET THE  
PRESIDENT OFF THE HOOK, AND ITS MEDDLING WORKS. (END  
TEXT). INGERSOLL

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